

REMARKS

Claims 2-7 and 9-26 are pending in this application, of which claims 2 and 3 have been amended. Claims 1 and 8 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1, 13-15 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,411,724 to Vaithilingam et al. (hereafter, "**Vaithilingam et al.**").

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Vaithilingam et al. discloses the use of meta-descriptors to represent multimedia information. A "descriptor" is a representation of a feature, a "feature" being a distinctive characteristic of multimedia information, while a "metadescriptor" is information about the descriptor. Metadescriptors are generated for multimedia information in a repository (10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24) by extracting the descriptors from the multimedia information (111), clustering the multimedia information based on the descriptors (112), assigning meta-descriptors to each cluster (113), and attaching the meta-descriptors to multimedia information in the repository (114). The multimedia repository is queried by formulating a query using query-by-example (131), acquiring the descriptor/s and meta-descriptor/s for a repository multimedia item (132), generating a query repository multimedia item (132), generating a query descriptor/s if none of the same type has been previously generated (133, 134), comparing the descriptors of the repository multimedia item and the query multimedia item (135), and ranking and displaying the results (136, 137).

The Examiner has cited column 12, lines 15-26 for teaching the features of claim 13.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Column 12, lines 25-27 disclose that “streamed and stored descriptions-both streamed (synchronized with content) and non-streamed date descriptions are supported.” This is a general statement discussing streamed data, and does not disclose that, if audio data includes mutiple channels or tracks, a representative channel or track of audio data is represented as the key stream, which is declared and described as a feature type, and at least one audio segment corresponding to the key stream is described, as recited in claim 13 of the instant application. The “streamed” data in Vaithilingam et al. refers to “streaming” as in a “video streaming service,” meaning that metadata travels on a network synchronized with its contents. However, “key stream” in claim 13 of the instant application means data itself such as “bitstream” and not “streaming” as used therein.

Claims 14 and 15, also relating to audio data, recite a key event (claim 14) or key object (claim 15), the contents of which are declared and described by textual information, and at least one audio segment corresponding to the key event (or object) is described. Vaithilingam et al. fails to disclose or discuss a key event or key object or any textual description of the contents of such, as required in claims 14 and 15.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) rejection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 7, 9, 16, 17 and 19-26 are allowed, and that claims 2-6 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/730,607
Response to Office Action dated August 29, 2006

Accordingly, claims 2-3 have been amended to be in independent form. Claims 10-12 are allowable without amendment because they depend from claim 9, which has been allowed.

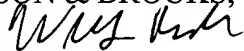
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 2-7 and 9-26, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP



William L. Brooks
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/ak
Atty. Docket No. 001615
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



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